

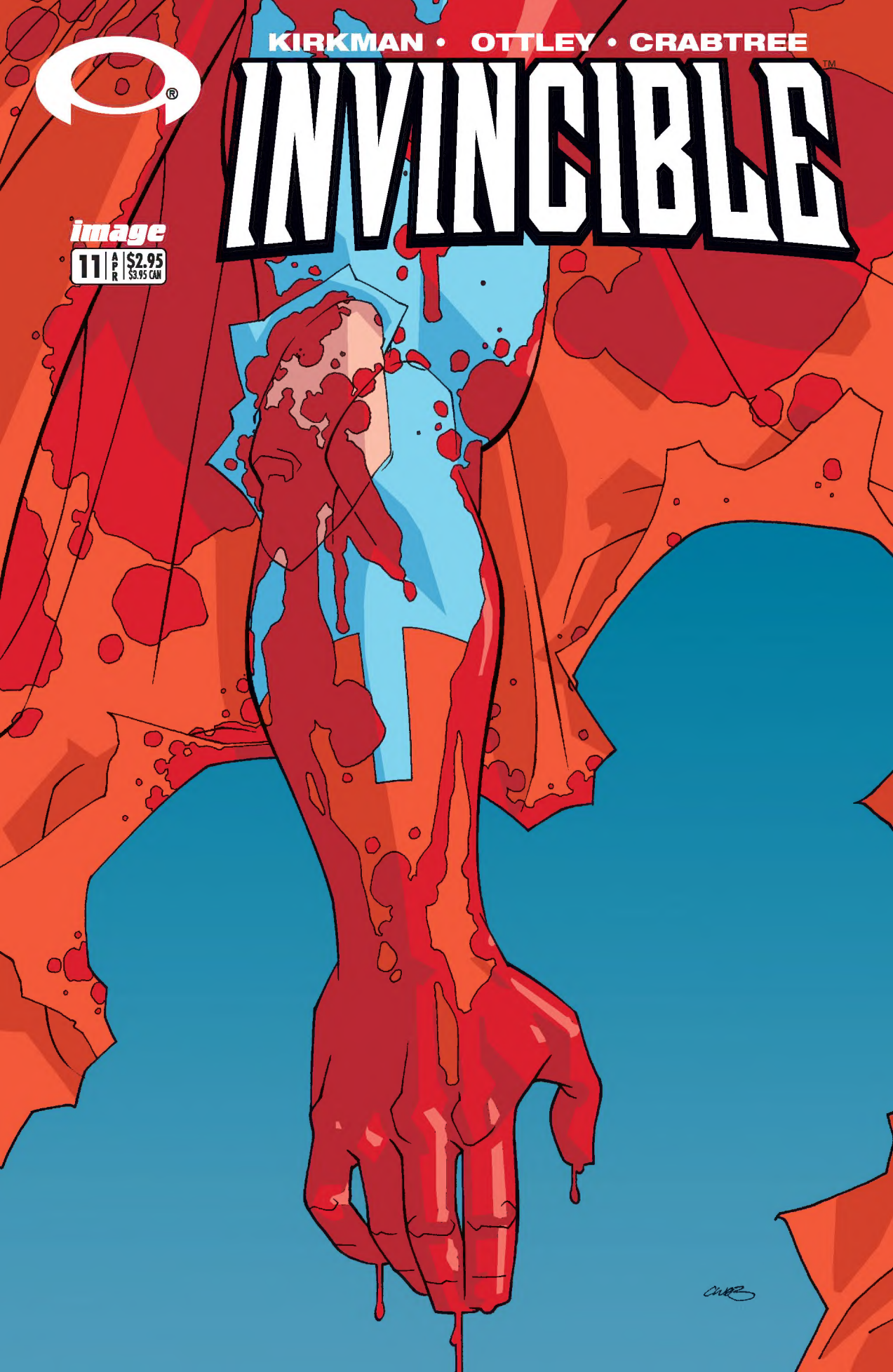


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ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER & LETTERER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER & INKER

BILL CRABTREE
COLORIST

COVER BY
CORY WALKER
AND BILL CRABTREE

INVINCIBLE CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN
AND CORY WALKER



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OKAY,
SON... I'VE
DECIDED TO
TELL YOU THE
TRUTH.

I
THINK YOU'RE
OLD ENOUGH TO
KNOW WHERE I
REALLY COME
FROM.



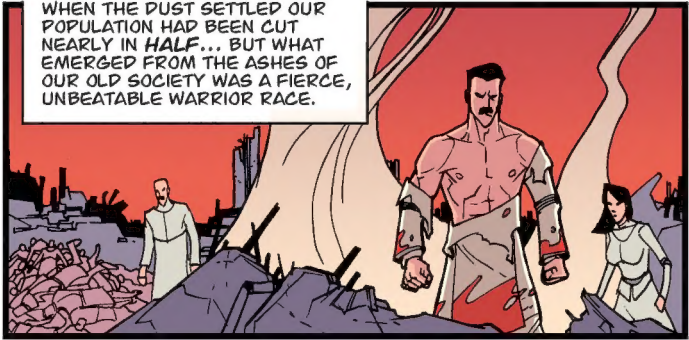
I AM FROM THE PLANET VILTRUM... THAT MUCH IS TRUE. ALTHOUGH, IT IS NOT THE PLANET THAT I HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT SO MANY TIMES.

VILTRUM WAS A PLANET THAT HAD ACHIEVED A PERFECT GLOBAL SOCIETY... BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN OVER NIGHT.



IT WAS DECIDED THAT IN ORDER FOR OUR PEOPLE TO OBTAIN INTERGALACTIC DOMINANCE WE MUST ELIMINATE THE WEAK FROM OUR PLANET.

IT WAS A VERY MESSY PROCESS.



WHEN THE DUST SETTLED OUR POPULATION HAD BEEN CUT NEARLY IN HALF... BUT WHAT EMERGED FROM THE ASHES OF OUR OLD SOCIETY WAS A FIERCE, UNBEATABLE WARRIOR RACE.



ONCE OUR BATTLE-SCARRED PLANET HAD BEEN REPAIRED... WE SET OUR SIGHTS OUTWARD. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT WE BRING OUR NEW WORLD ORDER TO OTHER WORLDS.

OUR GOAL WAS TO ESTABLISH AND EXPAND A PLANETARY EMPIRE.



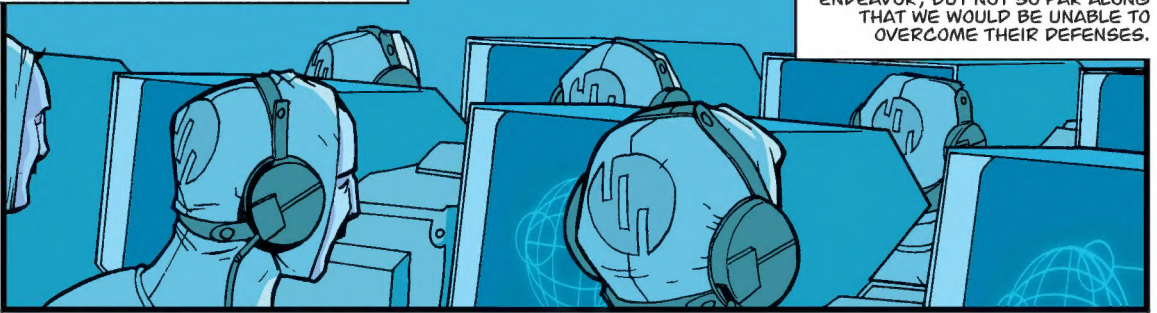
IT WAS AGREED UPON UNANIMOUSLY.

SHORTLY AFTER THE HIGH COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE IDEA, THE WORLD CONQUERING COMMITTEE WAS FORMED.

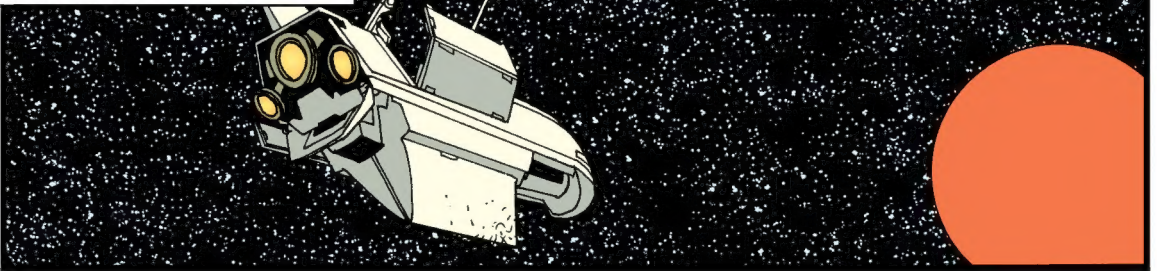


THE FIRST STEP OF THE INITIATIVE WAS TO LOCATE OTHER PLANETS THAT WERE IN A CRUCIAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT...

...PLANETS THAT WERE FAR ENOUGH ALONG THAT ADDING THEM TO THE EMPIRE WOULD BE A WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR, BUT NOT SO FAR ALONG THAT WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO OVERCOME THEIR DEFENSES.



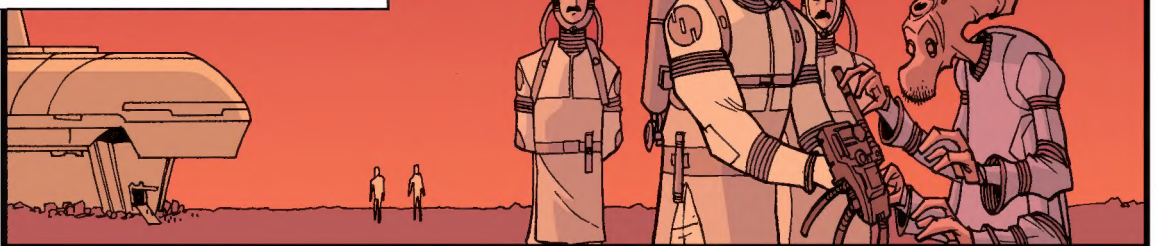
THE SECOND STEP WAS TO INSTALL A GLOBAL WATCHTOWER WHERE WE COULD KEEP SUPPLIES FOR A LONG TERM OCCUPATION, AND MONITOR THE ENTIRE PLANET FROM ORBIT.



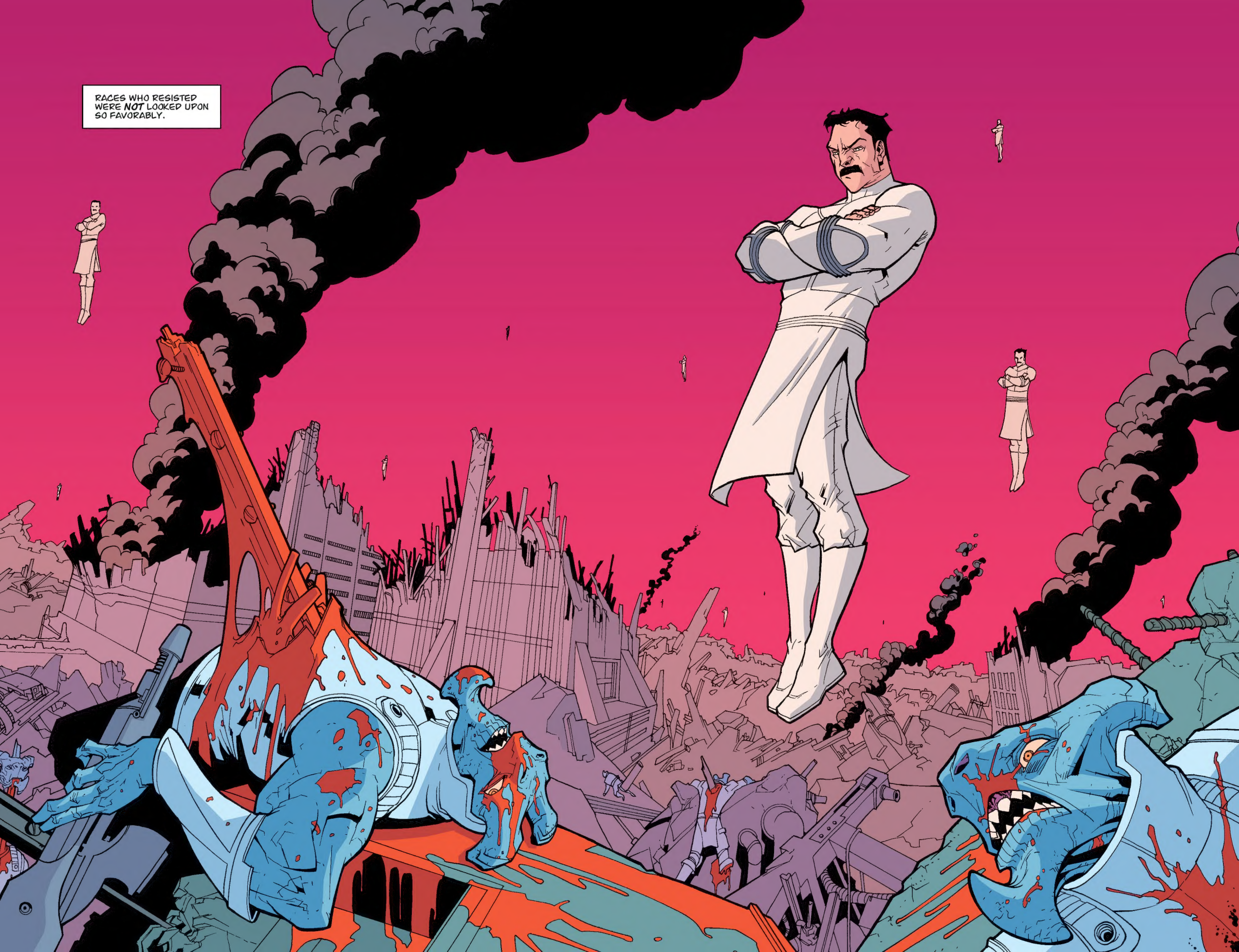
THE FINAL STEP WAS TO SEND A TEAM OF REPRESENTATIVES DOWN TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE TO ANNOUNCE OUR TAKEOVER.

THIS TEAM WOULD STAY BEHIND ON THE PLANET, MONITORING ITS ACTIVITIES.

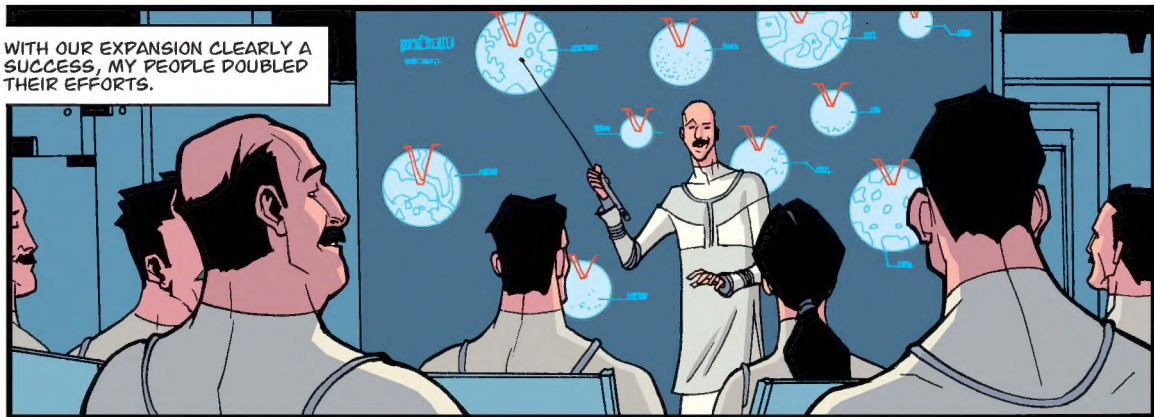
RACES WHO COOPERATED WERE GIVEN ACCESS TO OUR TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH COULD BE USED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE UNDER OUR RULE.



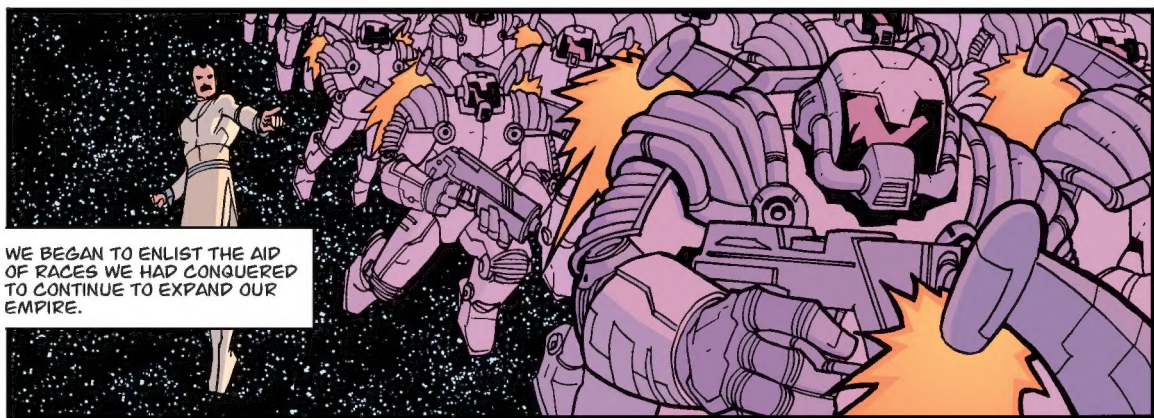
RACES WHO RESISTED
WERE **NOT** LOOKED UPON
SO FAVORABLY.



WITH OUR EXPANSION CLEARLY A SUCCESS, MY PEOPLE DOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS.



WE BEGAN TO ENLIST THE AID OF RACES WE HAD CONQUERED TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR EMPIRE.

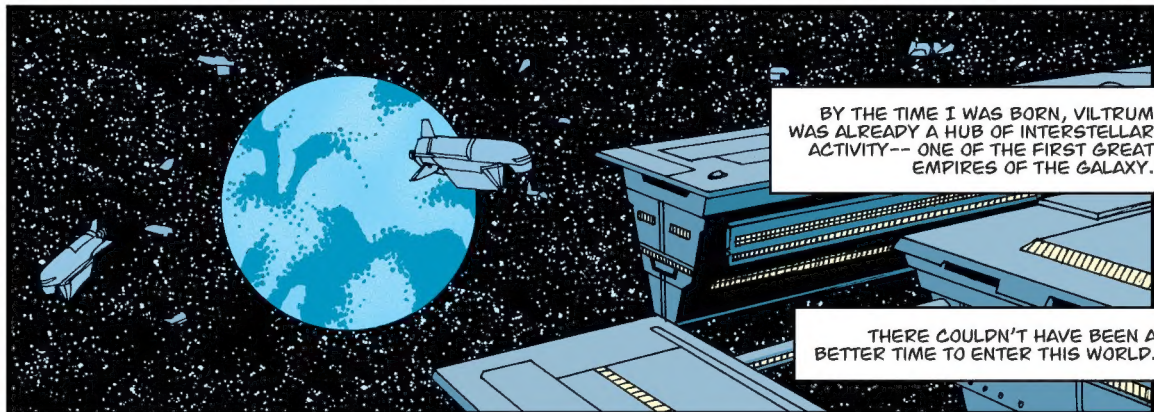


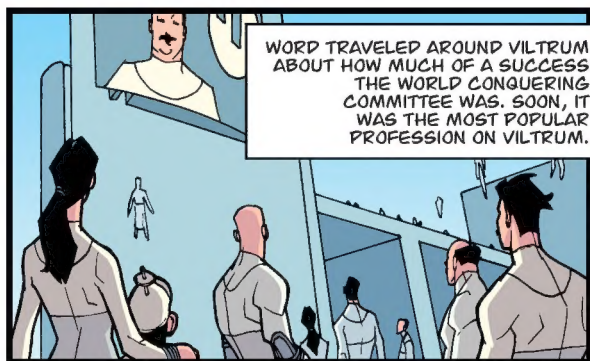
THOUGH THEY WERE NOT QUITE AS EFFICIENT AS OUR OWN FORCES... IT DID HELP WITH OUR EXPANSION EFFORTS.



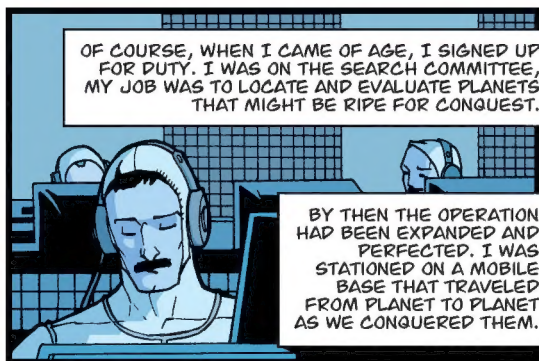
BY THE TIME I WAS BORN, VILTRUM WAS ALREADY A HUB OF INTERSTELLAR ACTIVITY-- ONE OF THE FIRST GREAT EMPIRES OF THE GALAXY.

THERE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A BETTER TIME TO ENTER THIS WORLD.



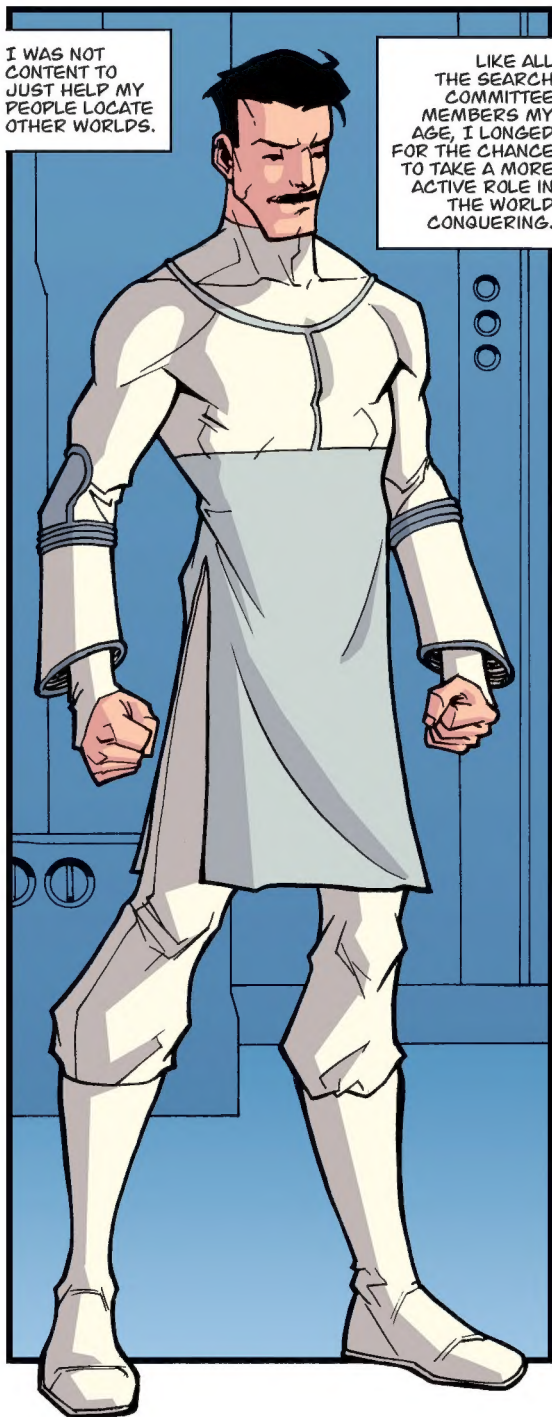


WORD TRAVELED AROUND VILTRUM ABOUT HOW MUCH OF A SUCCESS THE WORLD CONQUERING COMMITTEE WAS. SOON, IT WAS THE MOST POPULAR PROFESSION ON VILTRUM.



OF COURSE, WHEN I CAME OF AGE, I SIGNED UP FOR DUTY. I WAS ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE, MY JOB WAS TO LOCATE AND EVALUATE PLANETS THAT MIGHT BE RIPE FOR CONQUEST.

BY THEN THE OPERATION HAD BEEN EXPANDED AND PERFECTED. I WAS STATIONED ON A MOBILE BASE THAT TRAVELED FROM PLANET TO PLANET AS WE CONQUERED THEM.



I WAS NOT CONTENT TO JUST HELP MY PEOPLE LOCATE OTHER WORLDS.

LIKE ALL THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS MY AGE, I LONGED FOR THE CHANCE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE WORLD CONQUERING.



FOR THREE YEARS STRAIGHT I ATTENDED AUDITIONS UNTIL AT LAST... I HAD PROVEN MYSELF.



I HAD IMPRESSED THE HEADS OF RECRUITMENT SO MUCH THAT I GOT ONE OF THE BEST POSTS IN THE CONQUERING COMMITTEE.



I WAS STATIONED AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE EXPANSION EFFORTS... AT THE VERY EDGE OF OUR EVER-GROWING EMPIRE.

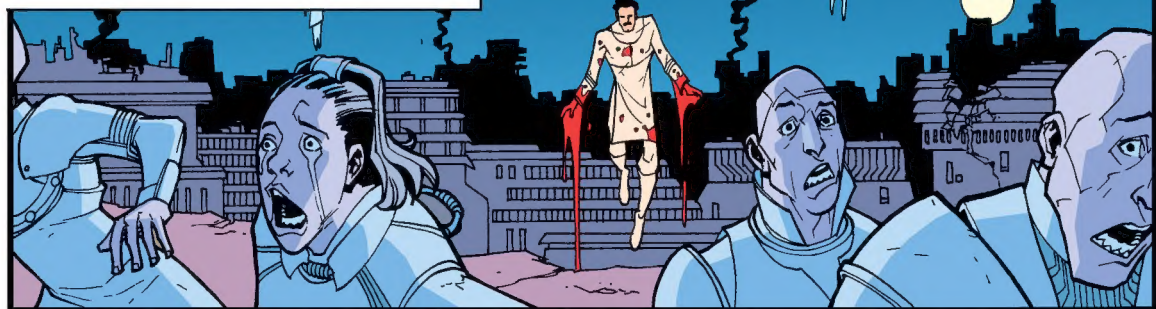
I THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK.

IT WAS MESSY WORK... BUT I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DIDN'T ENJOY IT. THERE WAS NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR VILTRUM.

THERE STILL ISN'T.



AS WE MOVED ACROSS THE GALAXY ADDING CIVILIZATION AFTER CIVILIZATION TO OUR EMPIRE I QUICKLY ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS.



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WAS LEADING MY OWN DIVISION.



IT DIDN'T MATTER IF IT TOOK ONE HUNDRED HOURS OR ONE HUNDRED YEARS. NO CIVILIZATION WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON WENT UNCONQUERED.





WE WERE UNSTOPPABLE.



OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS WAS PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF MY EFFORTS. FOR WHICH I WAS GREATLY REWARDED.

AT FIRST WITH AWARDS...



...AND EVENTUALLY...
WITH MUCH MORE.



AS OUR EMPIRE GREW, OUR
FORCES BECAME STRETCHED
TOO THIN JUST TRYING TO
MAINTAIN IT.

OUR EXPANSION SCREECHED
TO AN ABRUPT HALT.



IT WAS CLEAR THAT WE NEEDED
A MORE EFFICIENT METHOD OF
WORLD CONQUERING.

SO ONE WAS DEVISED.



RATHER THAN COME IN LARGE NUMBERS
AND CONQUER A PLANET BY FORCE, OUR
HIGHEST RANKED AND MOST TRUSTED
OFFICERS WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY GIVEN
PLANETS TO SURVEY AND WEAKEN OVER
TIME.



I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST
CHOSEN FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

WE WERE TO ACCLIMATE
OURSELVES WITH THE PLANET'S
ENVIRONMENT... EVENTUALLY
BECOMING A MEMBER OF
SOCIETY.



ASIDE FROM ENSURING THE PLANET
DID NOT BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO
DEFEND ITSELF FROM US, IT WOULD
BE OURS TO DO WITH AS WE PLEASED
FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.

AT THE END OF THAT TIME, THE
KNOWLEDGE WE HAD COLLECTED
WOULD BE USED TO QUICKLY AND
EFFICIENTLY BRING THE PLANET
UNDER VILTRUM RULE.



IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO BE GIVEN
THIS ASSIGNMENT-- A REWARD
FOR ALL MY HARD WORK.

IT WAS THE CLOSEST
THING TO A VACATION
THAT EXISTED ON
VILTRUM.

UPON MY ARRIVAL, I SPENT DAYS SURVEYING MY NEW HOME.



EARTH WAS A VIBRANT NEST OF INDIVIDUALITY THAT WAS VERY MUCH ALIEN TO ME.

AT FIRST I HATED IT... AND REGRETTED ACCEPTING THE MISSION.



IT WAS A STRANGE PLANET FULL OF STRANGE PEOPLE.



BUT IT WAS MINE.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I REALIZED THIS WOULD BE NO EASY ASSIGNMENT.

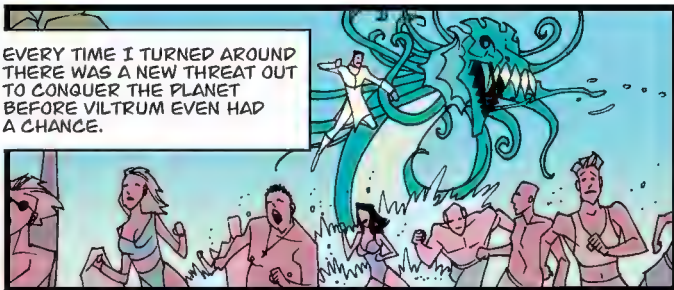
HAD THE WORLD CONQUERING COMMITTEE KNOWN EARTH WAS SUCH A VOLATILE ENVIRONMENT, THEY MAY NOT HAVE CHOSEN IT.



IT SEEMED ITS PEOPLE WERE ALMOST ALWAYS IN SOME KIND OF DANGER.



EVERY TIME I TURNED AROUND THERE WAS A NEW THREAT OUT TO CONQUER THE PLANET BEFORE VILTRUM EVEN HAD A CHANCE.



WE HAD LAID CLAIM TO THIS PLANET... I WAS NOT ABOUT TO LET IT FALL TO ANOTHER INVADER.



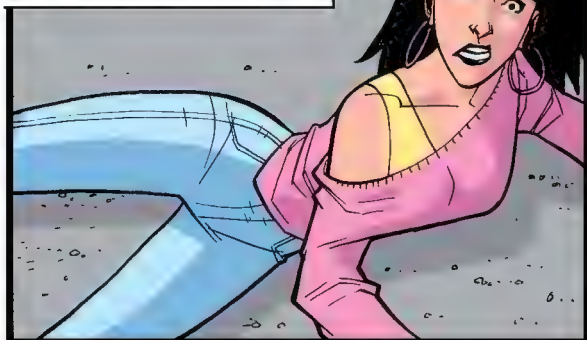
AFTER ONLY A FEW MONTHS, MY LIFE HAD SETTLED INTO A ROUTINE THAT INVOLVED LITTLE MORE THAN ENDING THREAT AFTER THREAT TO THE HUMAN RACE.



BUT ALL THAT WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE.



WHEN I MET YOUR MOTHER I
KNEW THE ONLY WAY TO ENJOY
MY TIME HERE WAS TO ACTUALLY
LIVE AS A HUMAN.



WHEN IT EVENTUALLY CAME UP...
I TOLD HER THE VERSION OF MY
COMING TO EARTH THAT YOU HAVE
BEEN TOLD SINCE CHILDHOOD.



IT WAS CLEAR SHE WOULDN'T
APPROVE OF THE REAL
REASONS I WAS HERE.

LIVING LIFE AS A HUMAN WAS NOT EASY AT FIRST.



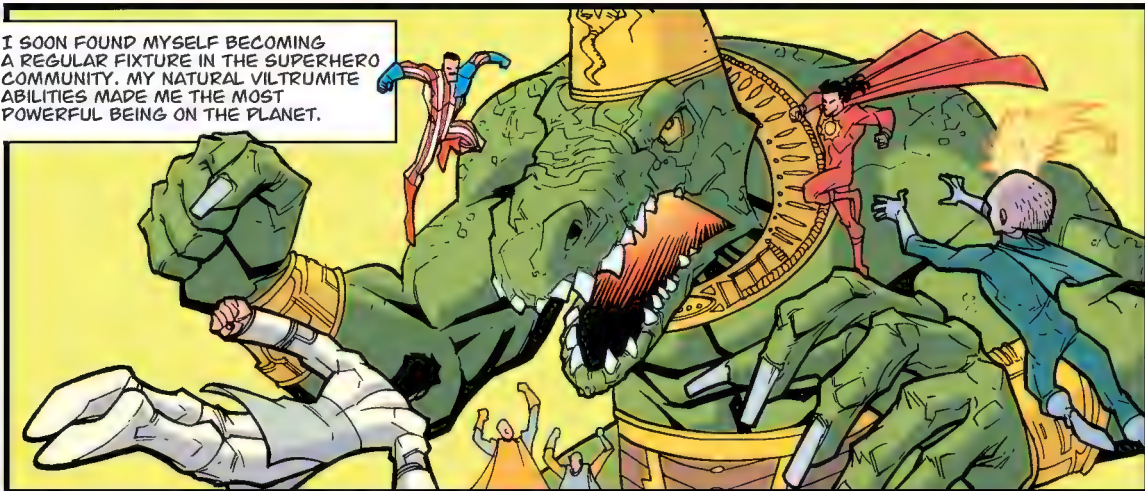
SIMPLE CONCEPTS LIKE MENTAL LABOR BEING REQUIRED TO EARN A LIVING WERE COMPLETELY ALIEN TO ME.



THOUGH, THE ACT OF PHYSICAL LOVE MADE FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROCREATION WAS A WELCOME SURPRISE.



I SOON FOUND MYSELF BECOMING A REGULAR FIXTURE IN THE SUPERHERO COMMUNITY. MY NATURAL VILTRUMITE ABILITIES MADE ME THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON THE PLANET.



I FOUND MYSELF ON ADVENTURE AFTER ADVENTURE. AFTER A TIME, I REALIZED THAT MY TRUE MOTIVES HAD BEGUN TO SLIP FROM MY MIND.



I WAS LIVING THE LIE A BIT TOO WELL.

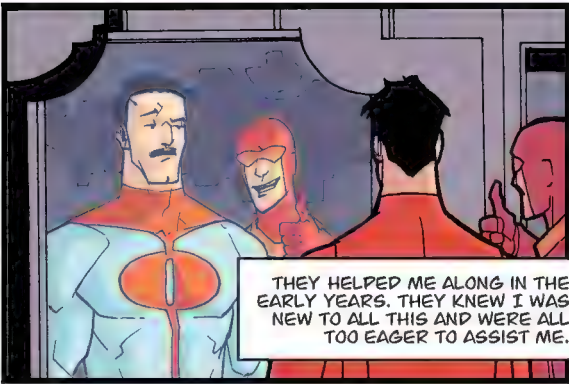


IT WASN'T LONG AFTER YOUR
MOTHER AND I MARRIED THAT
I FIRST RAN INTO THE
GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.





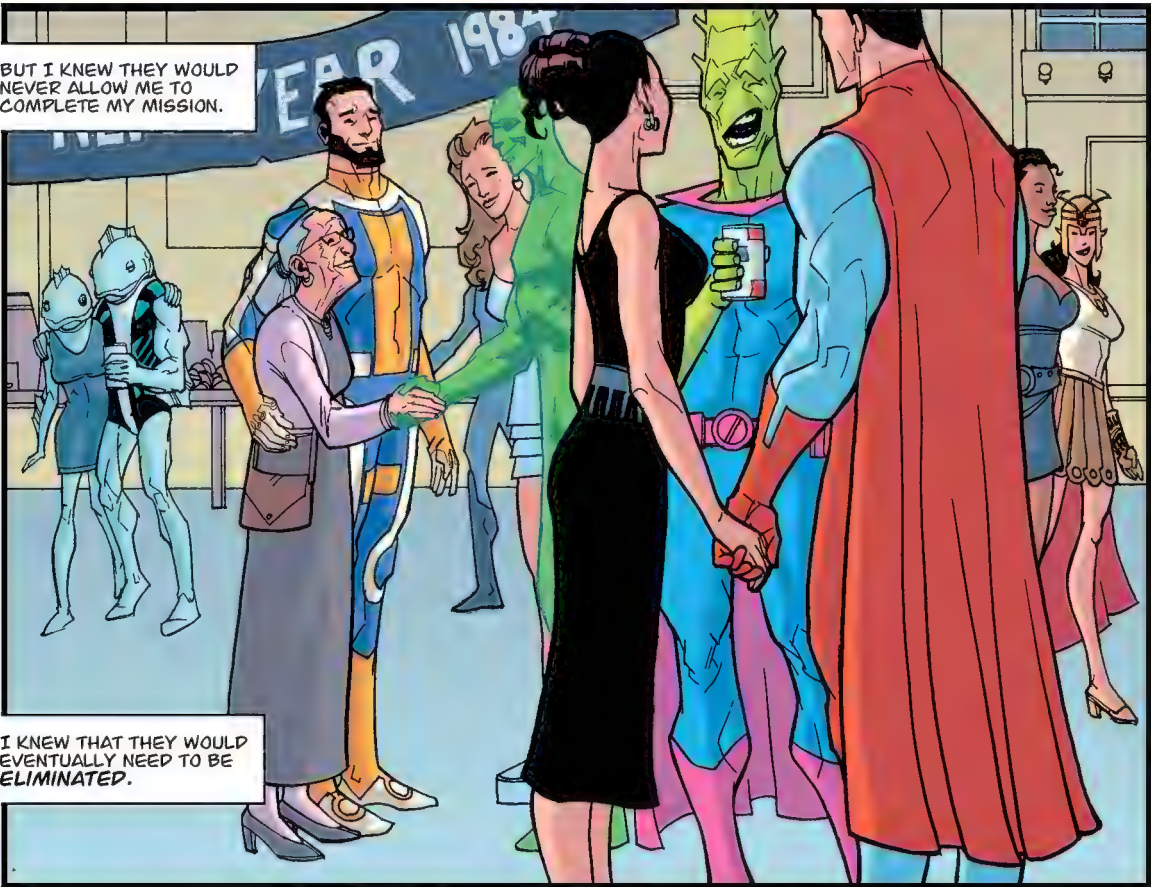
I NEVER BECAME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER BUT I WAS WELCOMED INTO THE FOLD WITH OPEN ARMS.



THEY HELPED ME ALONG IN THE EARLY YEARS. THEY KNEW I WAS NEW TO ALL THIS AND WERE ALL TOO EAGER TO ASSIST ME.



SOME OF THEM I WOULD EVEN EVENTUALLY COME TO CONSIDER FRIENDS.



BUT I KNEW THEY WOULD NEVER ALLOW ME TO COMPLETE MY MISSION.

I KNEW THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY NEED TO BE ELIMINATED.

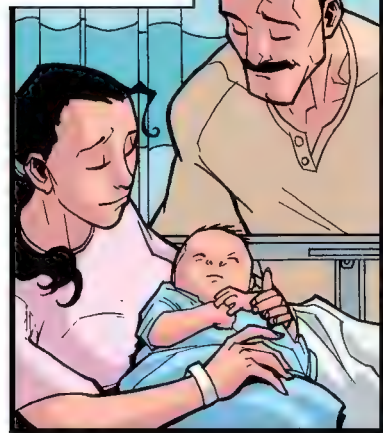
AS MY YEARS ON EARTH GREW LONGER...
I FOUND MYSELF BECOMING MORE AND
MORE COMFORTABLE LIVING LIFE AMONG
ITS INHABITANTS.

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT
WORRIED ME A GREAT DEAL.

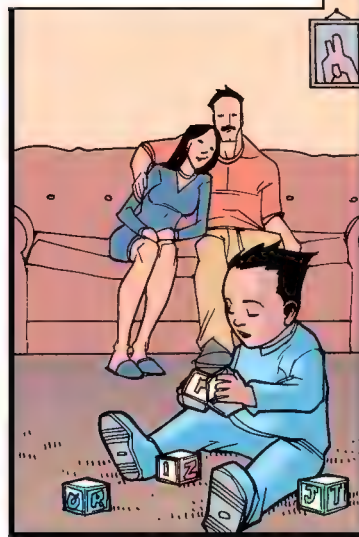


THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED.

YOUR MOTHER
WAS SO HAPPY...
I HAD NO CHOICE
BUT TO RAISE
YOU AS A HUMAN.



I COULDN'T RISK **HER** FINDING
OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT ME... SO
I COULDN'T RISK TELLING **YOU**
THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.



I OFTEN THOUGHT ABOUT
TAKING YOU... AND RAISING
YOU AS A VILTRUMITE IN A
SECLUDED AREA OF THE
PLANET.

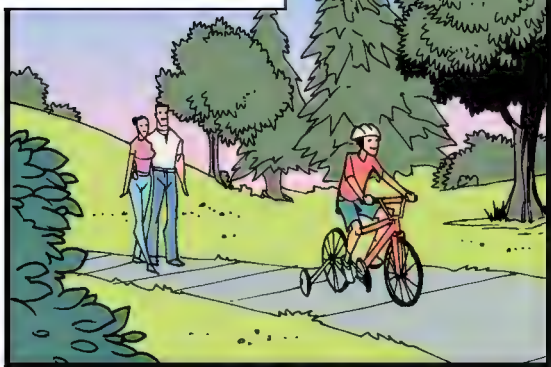


I COULD NEVER BRING
MYSELF TO DO IT.



NO MATTER HOW I TRIED TO DISTANCE
MYSELF FROM HER EMOTIONALLY... I
COULDN'T DENY THAT I HAD GROWN
QUITE FOND OF HER.

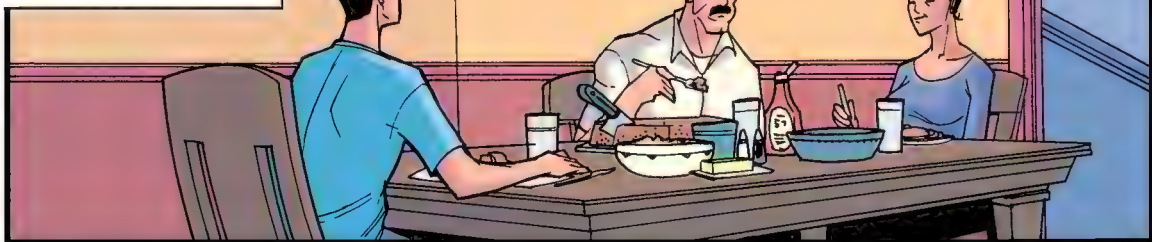
I DECIDED THAT FOR A TIME
I WOULD TURN MY BACK ON
MY DUTIES AND FOCUS ON
RAISING YOU.



I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD
BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE
PERSPECTIVE TO THE WORLD
CONQUERING COMMITTEE,
HAVING GROWN UP IN THIS
ALIEN ENVIRONMENT.



HONESTLY, I WAS HAPPY IN
MY NEW LIFE... BUT I KNEW
IT COULDN'T LAST.



WHEN YOU STARTED TO DEVELOP
YOUR POWERS... I KNEW I COULDN'T
WAIT MUCH LONGER.



SO I MADE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS
WEAKENING EARTH'S DEFENSES.



...AND NOW IT'S TIME
FOR YOU TO JOIN ME
AND HELP ME PREPARE
THIS PLANET FOR ITS
IMMINENT TAKEOVER
AT THE HANDS OF
OUR PEOPLE.



I KNOW
THIS IS ALL
HARD TO TAKE
IN AT ONCE...
BUT OVER TIME...
IF YOU GIVE IT A
CHANCE...
YOU'LL BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND.

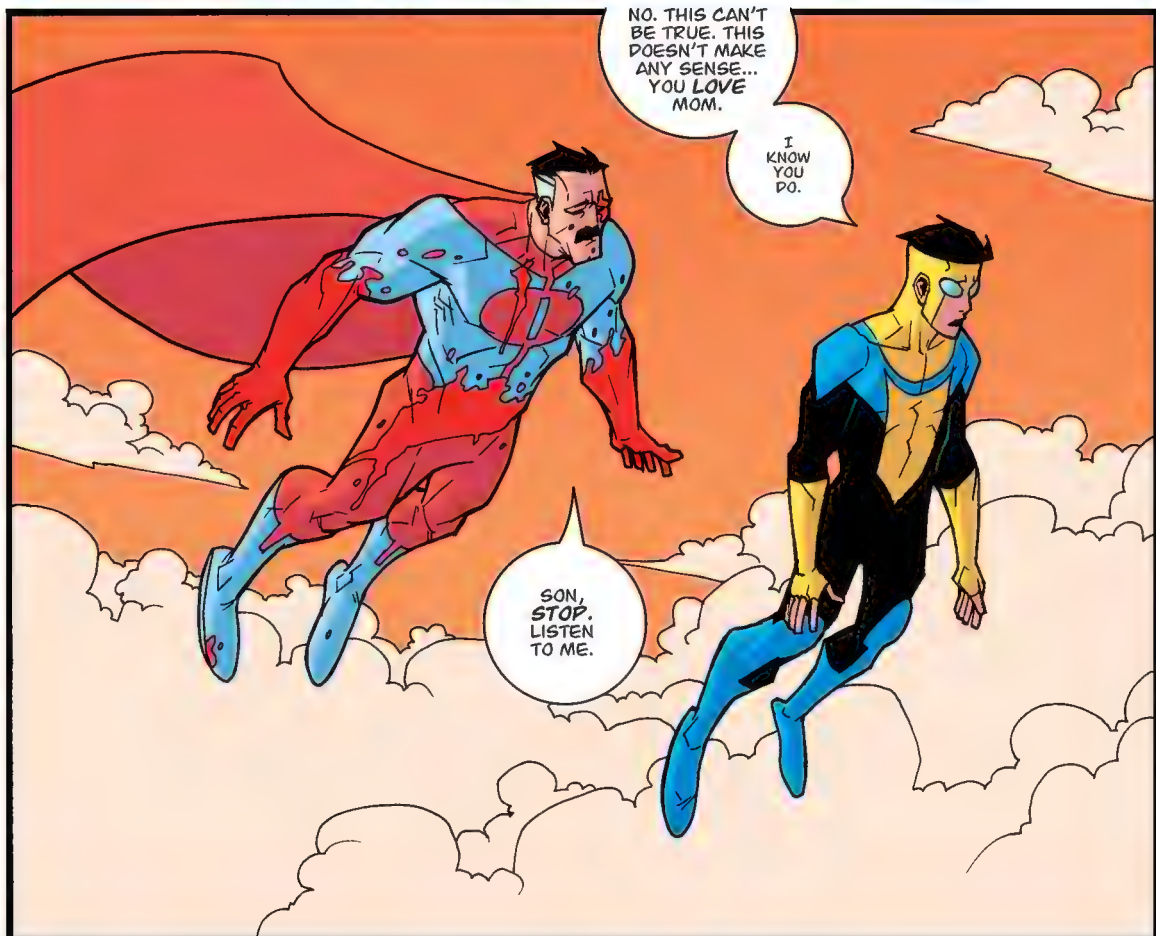
I'M SORRY
YOU HAD TO
LEARN ABOUT ALL
THIS UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES...
I TRIED TO TALK TO
YOU EARLIER. SEEING
THIS, I KNOW, IS NOT
THE BEST WAY TO
LEAD INTO THIS
SPEECH.



NO. THIS CAN'T
BE TRUE. THIS
DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE...
YOU LOVE
MOM.

I
KNOW
YOU
DO.

SON,
STOP.
LISTEN
TO ME.





DO YOU HAVE ANY **IDEA** WHAT OUR LIFE SPAN IS? THE OLDER WE GET THE SLOWER WE AGE. WE CAN'T LIVE AMONG THESE FRAIL THINGS...

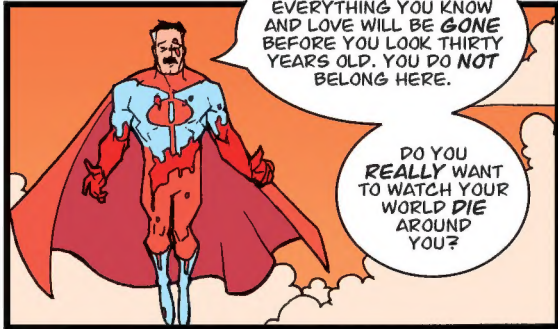
YOUR MOTHER IS LITTLE MORE THAN A PET.

VILTRUMITE DNA IS SO **PURE** AND COMPLETE THAT YOU ARE NEARLY FULL BLOODED. I COULD MATE WITH NEARLY **ANY** ALIEN BEING OF COMPARABLE EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCE A SIMILAR OFFSPRING.



THIS MEANS YOU **WILL** EVENTUALLY BE AS STRONG AS ME. YOU COULD POTENTIALLY BE STRONGER... AND YOU WILL LIVE FOR **THOUSANDS** OF YEARS.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS?



EVERYTHING YOU KNOW AND LOVE WILL BE **GONE** BEFORE YOU LOOK THIRTY YEARS OLD. YOU DO **NOT** BELONG HERE.

DO YOU **REALLY** WANT TO WATCH YOUR WORLD **DIE** AROUND YOU?



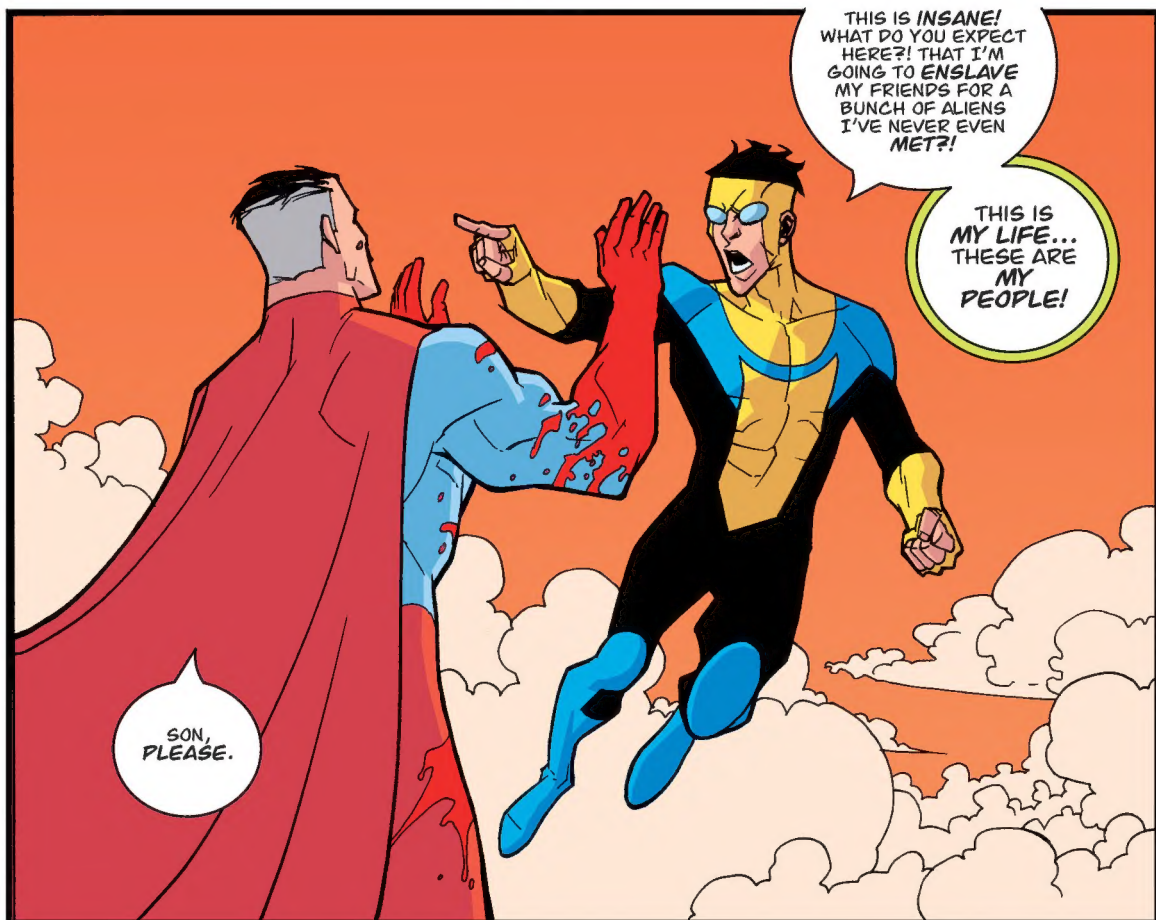
I KNOW THIS IS CONFUSING, BUT EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IS **WRONG**. WE DON'T **BELONG** HERE... THIS WORLD IS **BENEATH** US... THESE PEOPLE ARE **BENEATH** US.

THINK ABOUT IT, SON. YOU MUST **REALIZE** THIS IS RIGHT.

THIS PLANET AND ITS RESOURCES ARE VALUABLE TO THE VILTRUM EMPIRE. WITH YOU AT MY SIDE, WE COULD RULE THIS PLANET FOR **CENTURIES** BEFORE WE HAD TO TURN IT OVER.



TRUST ME, SON. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.





YOU'RE
NOT THINKING
THIS THROUGH.
WE HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY
TO OUR HOME
WORLD. YOU MAY
NOT UNDERSTAND
NOW, BUT--



I DON'T
GIVE A DAMN
ABOUT VILTRUM,
OR ANYTHING
YOU'RE
TELLING
ME!

I
DON'T CARE
IF I LIVE A
MILLION YEARS.
THIS IS MY HOME
AND I WILL NOT
LET YOU
DESTROY IT!



SON,
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING. I
CAN'T LET YOU
INTERFERE.

